

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 EB-07 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 USIE-00 ARAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 /041 W

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O 231535Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 91

UNCLAS MEXICO 8319

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, MX

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT OF US REGISTRY DETAINED IN MEXICO

REF: SMITH-FOWLER TELCON.

IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING PRESS AND OTHER INTEREST IN THE CONFISCATED AIRCRAFT SITUATION HERE IN MEXICO, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT FIND USEFUL SOME GENERAL LANGUAGE FOR REPLYING TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. A NUMBER OF REPORTERS AND STRINGERS HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY LATELY FOR INTERVIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL INDICATES THAT DESPITE THE RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF AIRPLANES HERE, VERY FEW OWNERS HAVE TAKEN ACTION THROUGH THE EMBASSY TO SECURE THE RETURN OF THEIR PROPERTY;

"THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE 186 AIRCRAFT OF UNITED STATES REGISTRY PRESENTLY DETAINED FOR VARIOUS REASONS IN MEXICO. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT MEXICO CITY OF THESE, 19 ARE WRECKS. THE MAJORITY OF ALL OF THE PLANES WERE EITHER STOLEN OUTRIGHT IN THE UNITED STATES OR RENTED THERE BY INDIVIDUALS WHO USED THE PLANES IN THE DRUG OR CONTRABAND TRAFFIC AND FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES. MEXICAN LAW, LIKE THAT OF THE UNITED STATES, PROVIDES FOR THE CONFISCATION OF VEHI-
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CLES OR PLANES USED IN THE COMMISION OF THIS TYPE OF

OFFENSE."

"DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY HAS

ASSISTED IN THE RECOVERY AND RETURN OF
TEN SUCH AIRCRAFT UNDER THE TERMS OF A CONVENTION
SIGNED BY THE US AND MEXICO IN 1936. DESPITE THE
RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF U.S. REGISTERED PLANES IN
MEXICO AT THE MOMENT, THE EMBASSY REPORTS THAT IT HAS
ONLY THIRTEEN CLAIMS PENDING UNDER THE CONVENTION, FIVE
OF THEM SUBMITTED DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS. MOST OF
THE REST OF THE CLAIMS DATE FROM LAST YEAR".

"TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF A PLANE UNDER THE CONVENTION,
WHICH USUALLY TAKES AT LEAST EIGHT MONTHS, IT IS NECES-
SARY FOR THE OWNER TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE OF OWNERSHIP, EVIDENCE
THAT THE AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN STOLEN OR EMBEZZLED, AND OTHER
PERTINENT DOCUMENTATION. THE EMBASSY IS PRESENTLY
GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THOSE AIRCRAFT OWNERS WHO HAVE
TAKEN NO ACTION UNDER THE CONVENTION TO DETERMINE
WHETHER THEY WISH TO DO SO".

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